REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-7 and 28-36 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 3 has been amended to correct a typographical error. As a result, claims 1-7 and 28-36 are pending for examination with claims 1 and 28 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

NOTE REGARDING PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants had filed a Preliminary Amendment on November 12, 2001 adding claims 34-36 which depended from claim 1. Claims 34-36 were not acknowledged in the Restriction Requirement mailed on July 13, 2005. Applicants hereby request consideration of claims 34-36.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Liu

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 7, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,953,005 (Liu). The rejections are traversed.

Applicants note that the Office Action presented no argument regarding a rejection of claim 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,953,005 (Liu), and therefore withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Liu

Liu teaches method and system for providing access to multimedia content on-line which is updated virtually simultaneously with a vendor's update process (abstract). Liu teaches a system wherein when the user desires to access songs which are most popular at a given time, the user is completely unaware of the automatic delivery of an applet including data and instructions from a main data base server. (col. 2, lines 34-38). When the user accesses a page, a song list and other information is displayed on a display apparatus. (col. 2, lines 38- 40). When the user clicks on a particular song of the song list, the applet executes an authentication request, and if the user is authenticated, the authentication is downloaded as part of the applet containing the desired multi media content (or separately depending upon the circumstances). (col. 2, lines 40-45). In the meantime, a new song may have reached number one standing in the charts, and the vendor has

971051.1

updated the main data base accordingly. (col. 2, lines 45-47). While the user is still on the page, an applet containing a new song list is downloaded to user's computer system, so that in the near future, when the user goes to click another song for playing, the song list is updated and includes the newest and most popular songs. (col. 2, lines 47-52).

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a system for synchronizing and serving multimedia content in a distributed network environment. The system comprises a synchronization server, a content server, and a plurality of clients, wherein the synchronization server provides an indication of an update to a multimedia resource to the clients, and the content server provides content information to the clients based upon the indication provided by the synchronization server.

Nowhere do the cited sections of Liu teach that the content server provides content information to the clients based upon the indication provided by the synchronization server. Liu teaches that while a user is still on the page, an applet containing a new song list is downloaded to user's computer system, so that when the user goes to click another song for playing, the song list is updated and includes the newest and most popular songs. (col. 2, lines 47-52). As such, the user may then select a new song from the new song list, which would cause the delivery of the song to the user's terminal. (col. 4, lines 44-45). Therefore, the delivery of the song to the user's terminal is based on the user's selection.

The cited sections of Liu are completely silent as to a content server that provides content information to the clients based upon the indication provided by the synchronization server. Therefore claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Liu, such that the rejection of claim 1 under §102 as purportedly being anticipated by Liu should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

The Office Action further asserts that Liu teaches that a synchronization server is a multitasking system that executes a plurality of processes, where each of the plurality of processes is capable of processing distributed events generated by each of the clients and synchronizing the distributed events, as recited in claim 3. Applicants disagree and note that the cited sections of Liu do not teach synchronizing distributed events generated by each of the clients.

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The Office Action further asserts that Liu teaches a system wherein the distributed events update a shared resource, and the distributed events are processed by the synchronization server in the order received by the synchronization server, as recited in claim 4. Applicants disagree and note that the cited sections of Liu do not teach distributed events that update a shared resource. Furthermore, it is unclear as to whether Liu even teaches a shared resource.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Richard

The Office Action rejected claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,162,060 (Richard). The rejections are traversed.

Richard

Richard teaches a network system for computer aided instruction, including a main computer having a repository for storing courseware, a network of servers connected to the main computer, and a number of local area networks, each of the networks connected to a server, and each including a number of interconnected workstations (abstract). Richard teaches that when a student working on a workstation 124 requests a course, this initiates action from the server 106 attached to the LAN which the student's workstation is attached. (col. 4, lines 49-51). The server first checks if the student is authorized to take the course and enroll, and if so, searching for the course, commences. (col. 4, lines 51-54). Searching for the course entails first looking in the local copy of the repository to see if the current version of the course is resident on the server. (col. 4, lines 54-57). If it is not, the network is searched by the server sending queries to the other servers 106 in the network 100, asking for the course. (col. 4, lines 57-60). If a queried server has the course, it replies to querying server with the location of the course. (col. 4, lines 60-61). If the queried server does not have the course, it passes the query on to all other servers, unless it recognizes the query as being one which it has already passed on to other servers, in which case the queried server does nothing. (col. 4, lines 61-65). The search for a course eventually leads to the main computer 102. (col. 4, lines 66-67). All courses are stored in the repository 104, therefore, the query can be satisfied. (col. 4, line 67 – col. 5, line 1). The appropriate reply is sent back to the requesting server. (col. 5, lines 1-2).

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Claim 28

Claim 28 is directed to a computer-implemented virtual course system adapted to a distributed network environment. The course system comprises a content server providing course-related information, a plurality of clients adapted to exchange information with the content server, and a synchronization server, wherein the synchronization server provides an indication of an update to the course-related information to the clients, upon which at least one client sends a request for updated course-related information to the content server and the content server provides the updated course-related information to the at least one client in response to the request.

Nowhere do the cited sections of Richard teach a synchronization server that provides an indication of an update to the course-related information to the clients, upon which at least one client sends a request for updated course-related information to the content server and the content server provides the updated course-related information to the at least one client in response to the request. As per the cited sections of Richard, when a student working on a workstation 124 requests a course, this can prompt searching for the course by the server 106 attached to the LAN which the student's workstation is attached. (col. 4, lines 49-51). This searching process simply entails locating a server in the network that contains a copy of the course. (col. 4, lines 61-65). If none of the queried servers contain the course, the search for a course eventually leads to the main computer 102. (col. 4, lines 66-67).

The process taught by the above-mentioned cited sections of Richard is completely silent as to a synchronization server providing an indication of an update to the course-related information to the clients, upon which at least one client sends a request for updated course-related information to the content server and the content server provides the updated course-related information to the at least one client in response to the request. Therefore claim 28 patentably distinguishes over Richard, such that the rejection of claim 28 under §102 as purportedly being anticipated by Richard should be withdrawn.

Claim 29-30 depend from claim 28, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

<u>Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103</u>

The Office Action rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu. The rejection is traversed.

Applicants traverse the assertion of the Office Action that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the step of updating a shared resource by one of the plurality of clients in real time. Applicant respectfully challenges the assertions of the Official Notice and requests that adequate references be provided which disclose or teach the assertion, as outlined by MPEP 2144.03.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: Respectfully submitted,

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